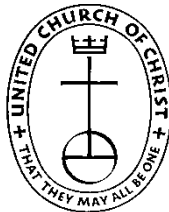


July 30, 2017 – 10:00 am
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**An Open and Affirming congregation
where all are welcome**



Our mission is to worship and serve God
in our church, community, and the world.



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Rev. Rosemary Captain

Telephone 397-6323

Please respond with words in **bold** print.

*Please stand if comfortably able

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: "I Love You, Lord with Jesus the Very Thought of Thee"
Laurie Klein

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Romans text.

One: Let us call on our God and give thanks.

Let hearts rejoice as we sing God's praises.

Many: Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life.

Let all the people tell of God's wonderful works.

One: Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence.

Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

Many: Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.

One: Who can separate us from the love of God?

Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?

Many: Nothing can separate us from God's love.

We can face all things, knowing God's care.

ALL: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN: #276 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Meet us here, holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, to trust you and your will for us. We believe that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it. Show us, O God, the good you intend. Amen.

*GLORIA: #759

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 29:15-28

Lay Liturgist (Page 34 in the Pew Bible)

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:26-39 Lay Liturgist

(Pages 1377 – 1378 in the Pew Bible)

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

(Pages 1187, 1188 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: **“Can something small make a difference?”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

#521 “In Solitude”

PASTORAL PRAYER beginning with silent personal prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it be your name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: **NCH #775**

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bare you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: Jesus, Name above All Names Naida Hearn

***DOXOLOGY: # 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

The gift of your kingdom is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give you thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”
(Words on the screen)**

DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH # “81”
(verse one, no refrain)**

**God be with you till we meet again.
By good counsel guide, uphold you.
With a shepherd’s care enfold you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

**POSTLUDE: All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name Benton Price

Serving in Christ’s Name:

Ministers – All members of St. John UCC

Participants in Today’s Worship:

Pastor – Rev. Rosemary Captain

Minister of Music – Sharon Banjavcic

Liturgist - Sharon Banjavcic

Ushers – Ginny Ganschietz and Tyler Underwood